

K. England. — Parl. — House of Lords. *Petitions and Addresses*

SHORT ACCOUNT
OF THE
Duty laid upon PAPER Imported,
Before the late WAR with FRANCE.

LIKEWISE,

What Duties are now Paid for the same; and also, What must be Paid upon all Ordinary Paper Imported, if the Bill now depending Pass.

Humbly Offer'd to the Consideration of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal Assembled in Parliament.

I. **B**Y the Subsidy of Tunnage and Poundage before the War, the Duty upon all Papers Imported, being laid five *per Cent.* did not then amount to two Pence three Farthings *per Ream*: Which did in the whole produce about five thousand Pounds *per Annum*.

II. The Duties that are now paid for Paper Imported from *Holland, Genoa, &c.* being three Fives *per Cent.* amounts to about eight Pence *per Ream*; and upon Paper Imported from *France*, two Shillings and eight Pence *per Ream*, which is sixty Pound *per Cent.* Yet upon Experience of the two last years, the said Duties with the late five and twenty *per Cent.* did not produce clear above five thousand eight hundred Pounds, although it be eight times more than before the War: So that the higher the Duty the less it produceth, the Subsidy of Tunnage and Poundage being sunk four parts in five by the extraordinary Imposition.

III. Should the intended further Duty of thirty *per Cent.* be laid; the Duties would then be as follows. Paper Imported from *Holland, Genoa, &c.* will pay two Shillings *per Ream*, which is forty five Pounds *per Cent.* Paper Imported from *France* must pay four Shillings *per Ream*, which is ninety Pound *per Cent.* Which will be a vast discouragement to the Importer, and will so sink the Revenue, that it will produce very little, when the Salaries of Commissioners and other Officers are deducted: And as the two last years Experience shews will in effect amount to an absolute Prohibition of common Writing and Printing Papers, which before the War were sold in *England* for about four Shillings *per Ream*, and now the same Commodities will stand the Importer in eight Shillings *per Ream* at least.

Besides which it is humbly offer'd to your Lordships Consideration,

That the further Duty of twenty Pound *per Cent.* laid in the said Bill upon all Printed Books to be Imported, will be a very great hindrance to Learning.

And the dearness of Paper occasioned by the high Duties thereon will discourage the Manufacture of Printing in *England*, and Ruin great Numbers of Families of Printers and Bookbinders, that depend upon the same for their Subsistence, and have no other way of living.

Besides, the King will pay a great part of this Duty by the Paper used in his Majesties Several Offices.